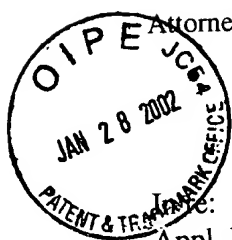


PATENT



Attorney's Docket No. 5576-131

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor: Maeda et al.
Appl. No.: 09/631,491
Filed: August 3, 2000
For: HYDROGEN ABSORBING ALLOY AND
NICKEL-METAL HYDRIDE RECHARGEABLE BATTERY

Confirmation No.:
Group Art Unit: 1742
Examiner: H. Wilkins, III

January 28, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED

FEB 06 2002

AMENDMENT

TC 1700

Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed September 28, 2001, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In The Claims:

1. (Twice amended) A hydrogen absorbing alloy having a CaCu_5 type crystal structure in its principal phase, comprising La in an amount of 24 to 33% by weight in the alloy, Mg in an amount of 0.1 to 1.0% by weight in the alloy, and 6% by weight or less of Co in the alloy.

Cancel Claims 2-4.

12. (Amended) A hydrogen absorbing alloy according to claim 1, wherein said alloy is represented by the formula $\text{La}_u\text{R}_v\text{Mg}_w\text{Ni}_x\text{Co}_y\text{M}_z$, wherein:

R is a rare earth element other than La;

M is at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mn, Al, Si, Sn, Fe, Cu, Ti, Zr, and V; and

the ratio of $(x+y+z)/(u+v)$ is 4 to 7.